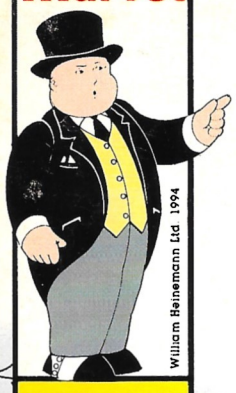
Marvel



William Heinemann Ltd. 1994

9th Sept. '94
№180 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Win Thomas toys - Inside!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine has always been a Really Useful Engine because he has so many good ideas. Thomas doesn't like to see things go to waste, especially when they can be re-used to make new interesting things. In our first story, Thomas shows us what you can make with old wood! Look out for Trevor the Traction Engine, too! He meets a new friend on page 16! *Peep! Peep!*

OUR COMPETITION!

Turn to page 12 for your chance to win a bright selection of Thomas Toys, including Thomas Projectors and Motorised Engines.

You can also collect Token

No.1 in our 2-part Miniature Toys Competition, on page 14.

The new-look Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends fortnightly magazine will soon be available. Turn to the back page for full details.

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid Fat Controller's Card send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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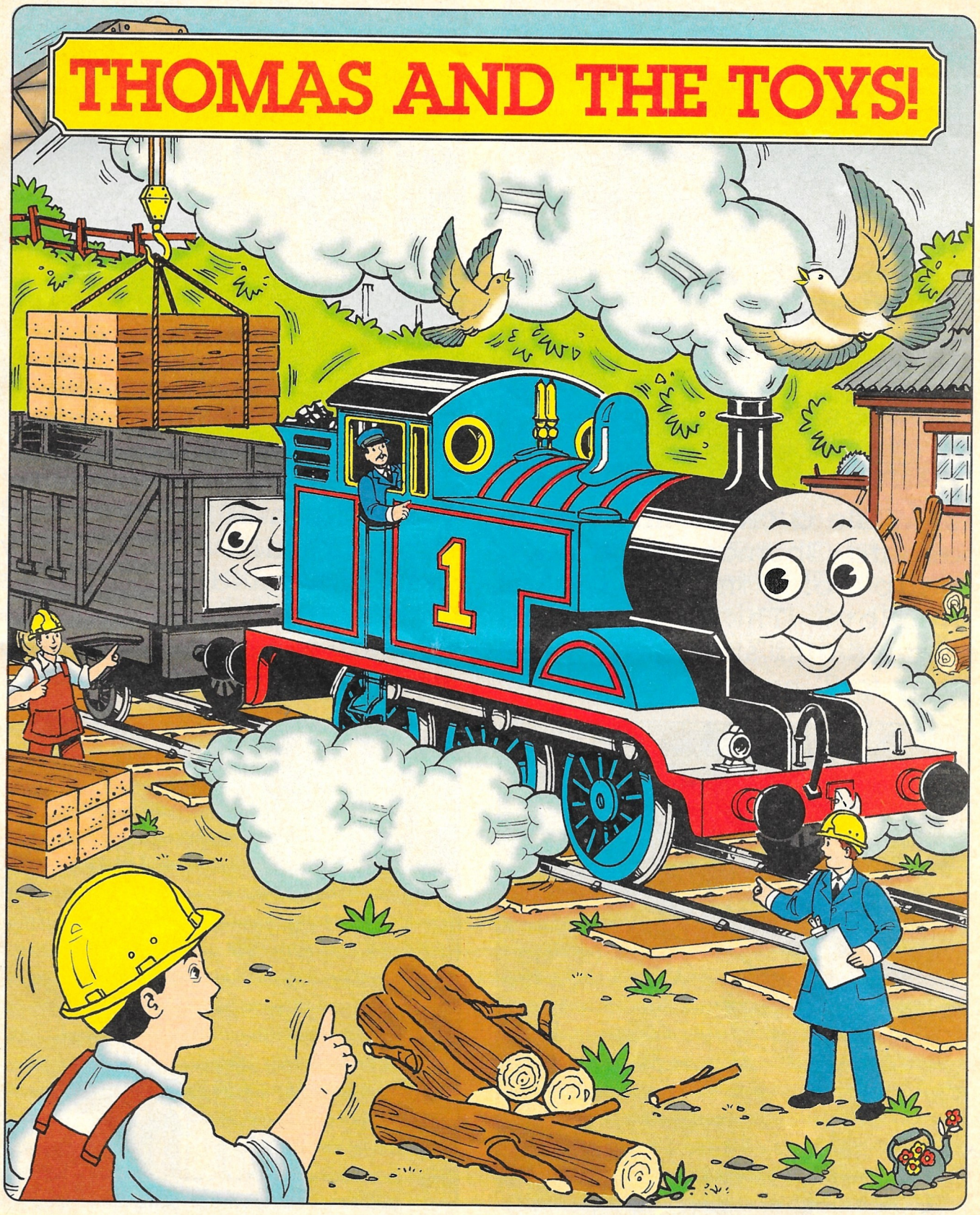
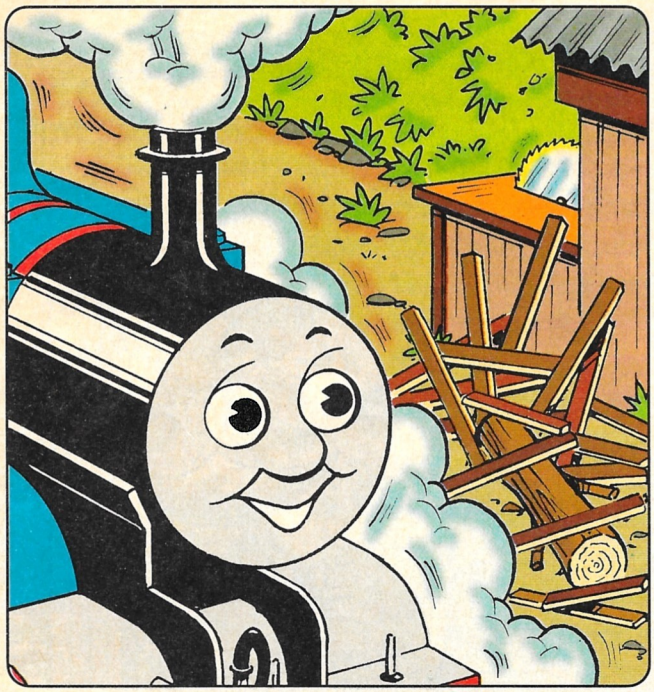
THOMAS AND THE TOYS!



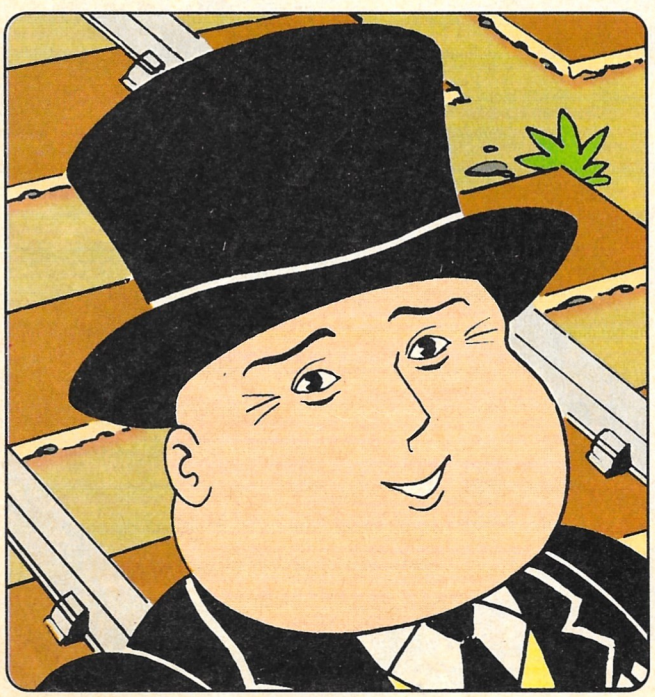
1. Engineers were busily replacing old railway sleepers on a length of track. It was Thomas's task to collect some new sleepers from the sawmill.

2. When he arrived, Thomas could hear a powerful saw cutting and shaping the sleepers from logs. Many were already piled up for loading into his trucks.

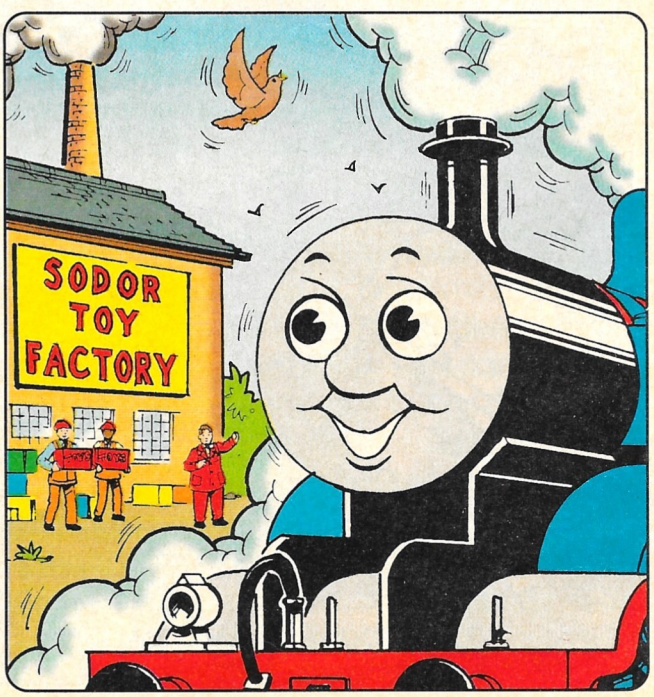


3. While a crane lifted them aboard, Thomas saw a huge heap of timber pieces nearby. They were all shapes and sizes. "What are they for?" he asked.

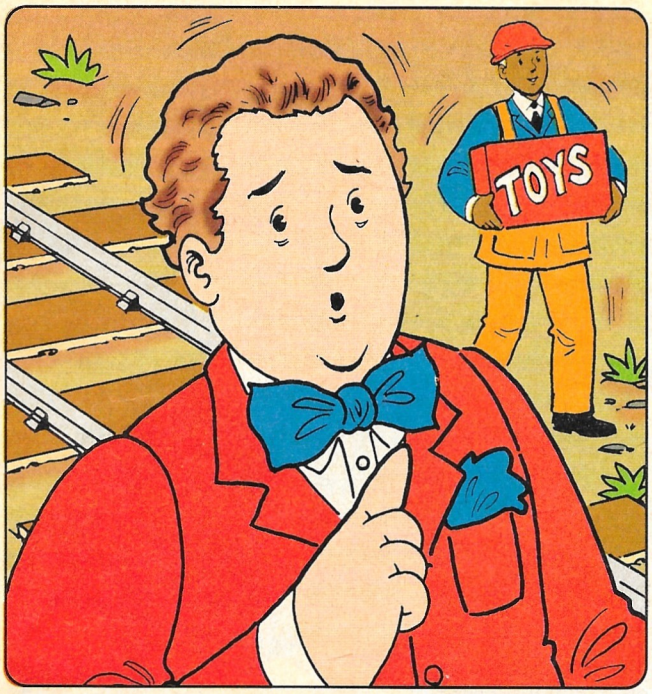
4. The sawmill manager told Thomas's driver that they were unwanted wood pieces trimmed from logs when the sleepers were made. "Such a waste!" thought Thomas.



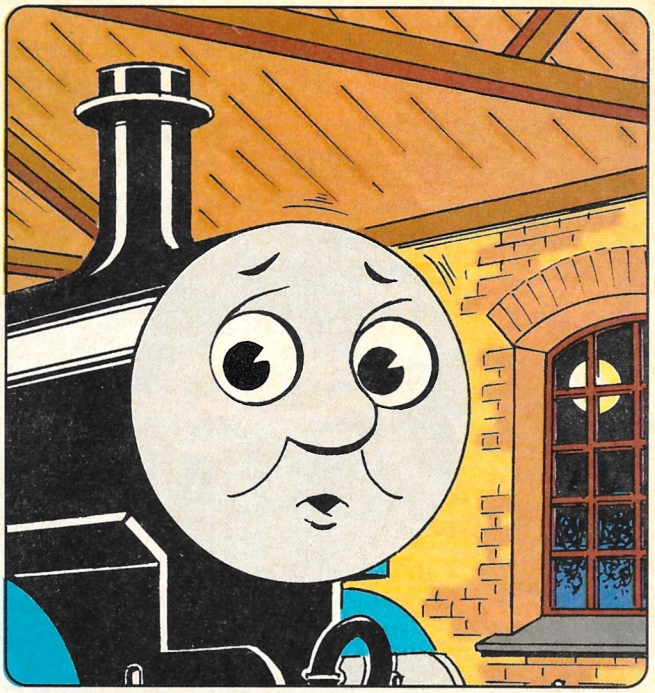
5. Soon he delivered the new sleepers to be laid by the engineers. Then Thomas returned to the Main Station yard, where the Fat Controller was waiting.



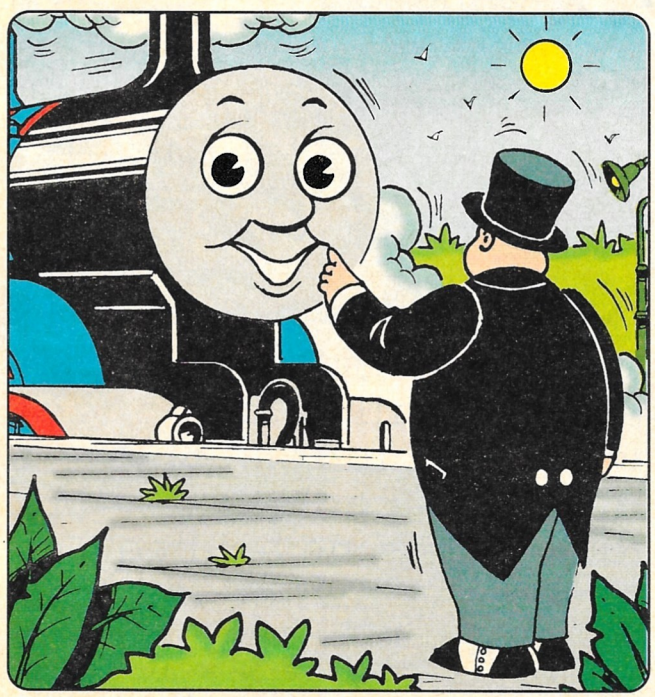
6. "I've another job for you," he said. Thomas was sent to a toy factory to fetch a supply of toys due for the Big Harbour for shipping to the mainland.



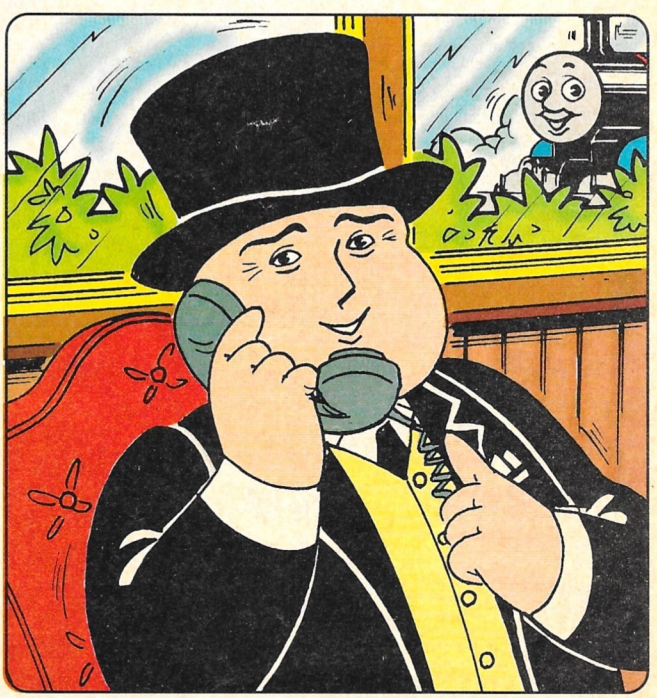
7. When Thomas arrived, the owner spoke to his driver. "Business is bad," he said. "I need to sell lots more toys than these to keep the factory open!"



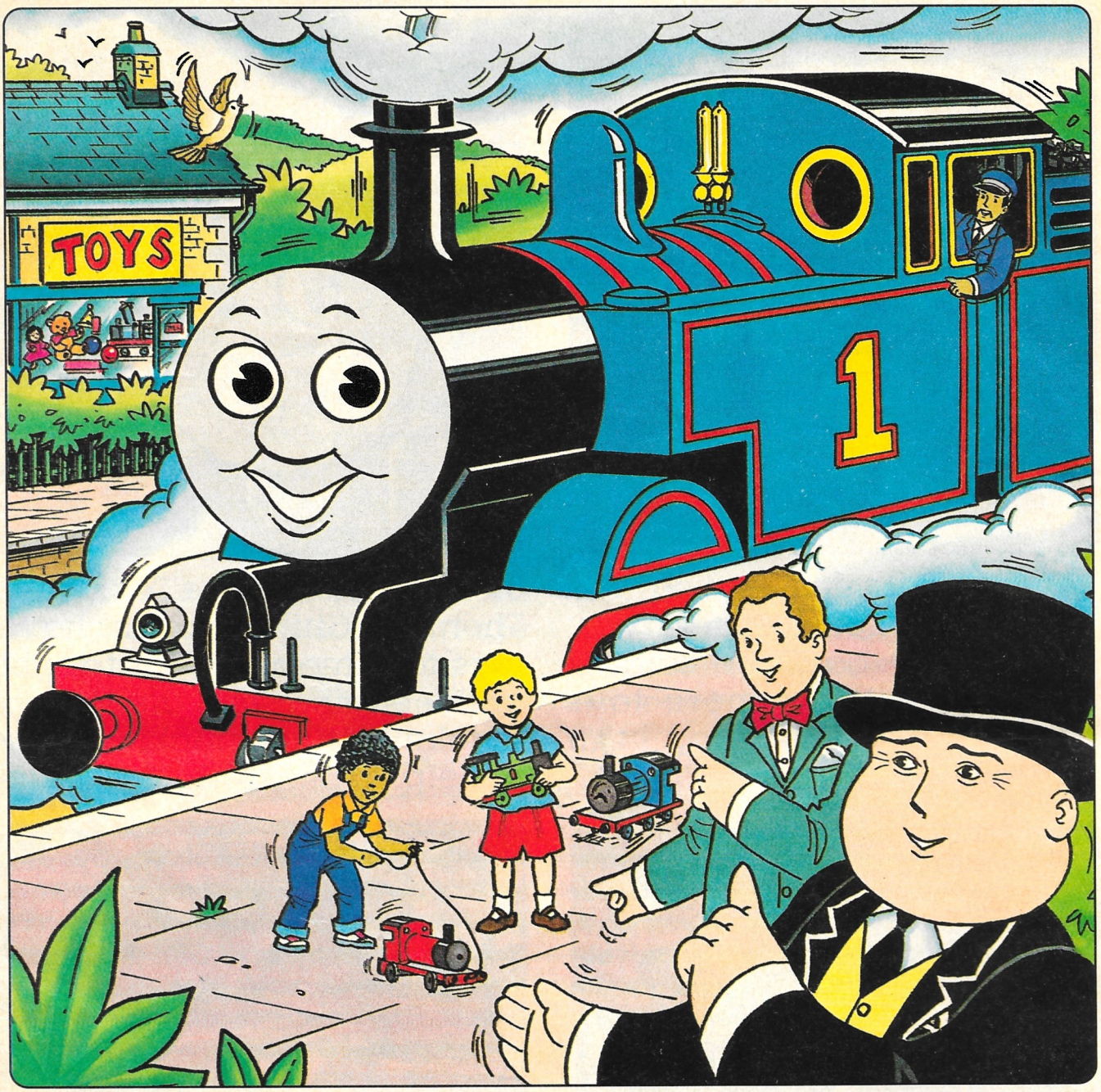
8. "It's a shame!" sighed Thomas. "Children must have toys to play with!" That night in the engine shed, he stayed awake till late thinking how to help.



9. At last, Thomas had an exciting idea. Next morning, he told the Fat Controller. "Why not make toy engines from the sawmill's off-cuts," he said.



10. The Fat Controller telephoned the sawmill manager and factory owner, who both agreed. Thomas was only too pleased to deliver the wood.



11. The Fat Controller went with Thomas to the toy factory. "You can make wooden models of all my engines and I will help to sell them for you at my stations!" he told the owner. The sawmill manager was pleased that his wood pieces could be used after all, and soon the first engines were ready.

12. All over the Island of Sodor, children bought wooden models of their favourite engines. "My factory has never been so busy!" the owner told the Fat Controller. Thomas was especially proud because lots of the children who rode in his train, bought models of Thomas the Tank Engine! **THE END!**

In our next issue: Conker cargo!

Token Number 1

Miniatures TO BE WON!

Cut out and keep the token in the corner. You'll need it to enter this fabulous competition. We'll give you exact details of how you can try to win one of these amazing prizes next issue. So be sure to reserve your copy - now!

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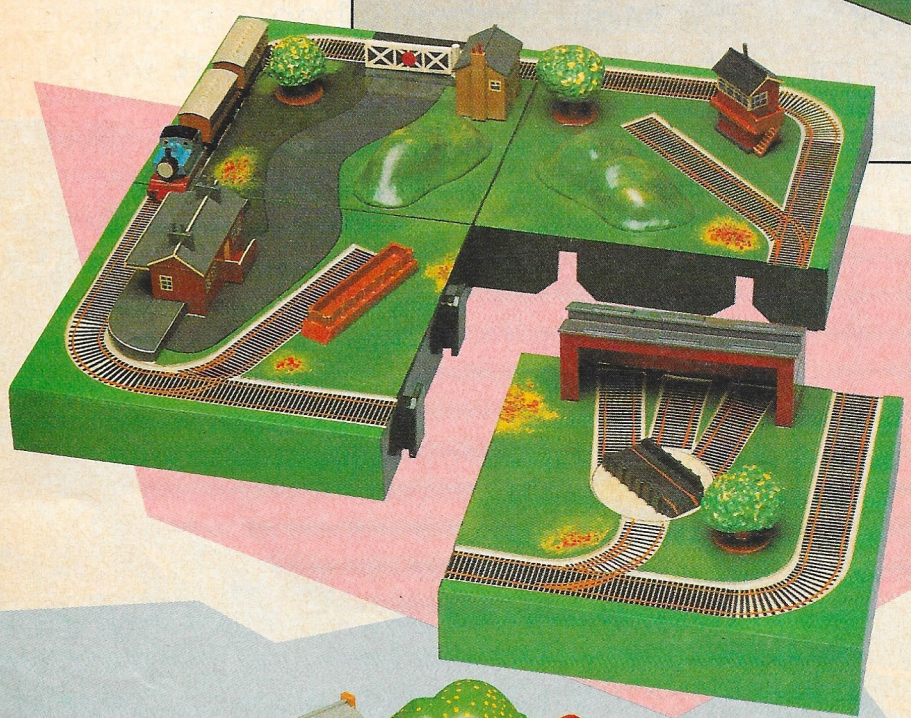
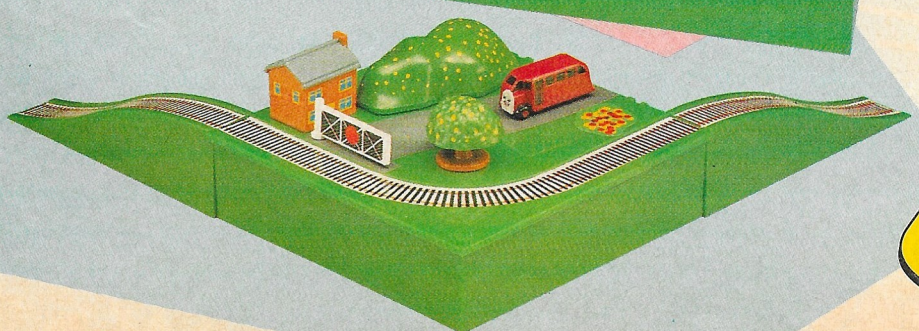
12 1ST PRIZE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A 6-PIECE MINIATURE SET!



12 2ND PRIZE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A 4-PIECE SET!



48 3RD PRIZE WINNERS RECEIVE A MINI ADVENTURE SET!

THE SPECIAL DAY!

It was an important day for James. He steamed grandly towards the Main Station where the Fat Controller's wife, Lady Hatt, and some helpers were waiting. Some porters were fetching a trolley. It was needed to carry hampers of food which Lady Hatt had brought by car, for loading aboard James.

Nearby, Thomas was being coupled to a works train.

"Make way!" sniffed James rudely. "I've been chosen to pull a seaside special. It's a children's picnic outing, arranged by Lady Hatt."

Thomas was to take a team of workmen along his branch line for urgent track repairs. Of course, this was a Really Useful task too, but it was not as exciting as pulling a special train. James was showing off to the little tank engine.

"Pah!" snorted Thomas crossly as James rolled past him and stopped at the platform.

"If that big-buffers puffs himself up much more, he'll burst his boiler!"

While James waited for the children to arrive at the station, Thomas set off with the men and equipment. But at the site where the repairs were needed, the foreman found the work was going to take a long time.

"We'll be here all day!" he told Thomas's driver. "Don't bother to come back for us until late. I only wish we'd brought some food."

Thomas felt sorry for the men. They would soon be hungry as well as tired. To make matters worse, it began to rain heavily.

"What a downpour!" said Thomas.

"This rain could last for hours!" replied his driver.

James was still waiting at the Main Station when Thomas returned. The Fat

Controller and Lady Hatt were talking on the platform.

"The children's parents have been ringing the station, worried about the weather!" said the Fat Controller

"I'll cancel the picnic until another day or everyone will get drenched!" said Lady Hatt sadly. "It's a pity about all the food we've prepared. It will all be wasted."

Thomas overheard and had an idea! He spoke to the Fat Controller.

Minutes later, James could only stare in silence as Thomas steamed proudly on his way, pulling Annie through the driving rain. Aboard, was Lady Hatt, her helpers and several hampers.

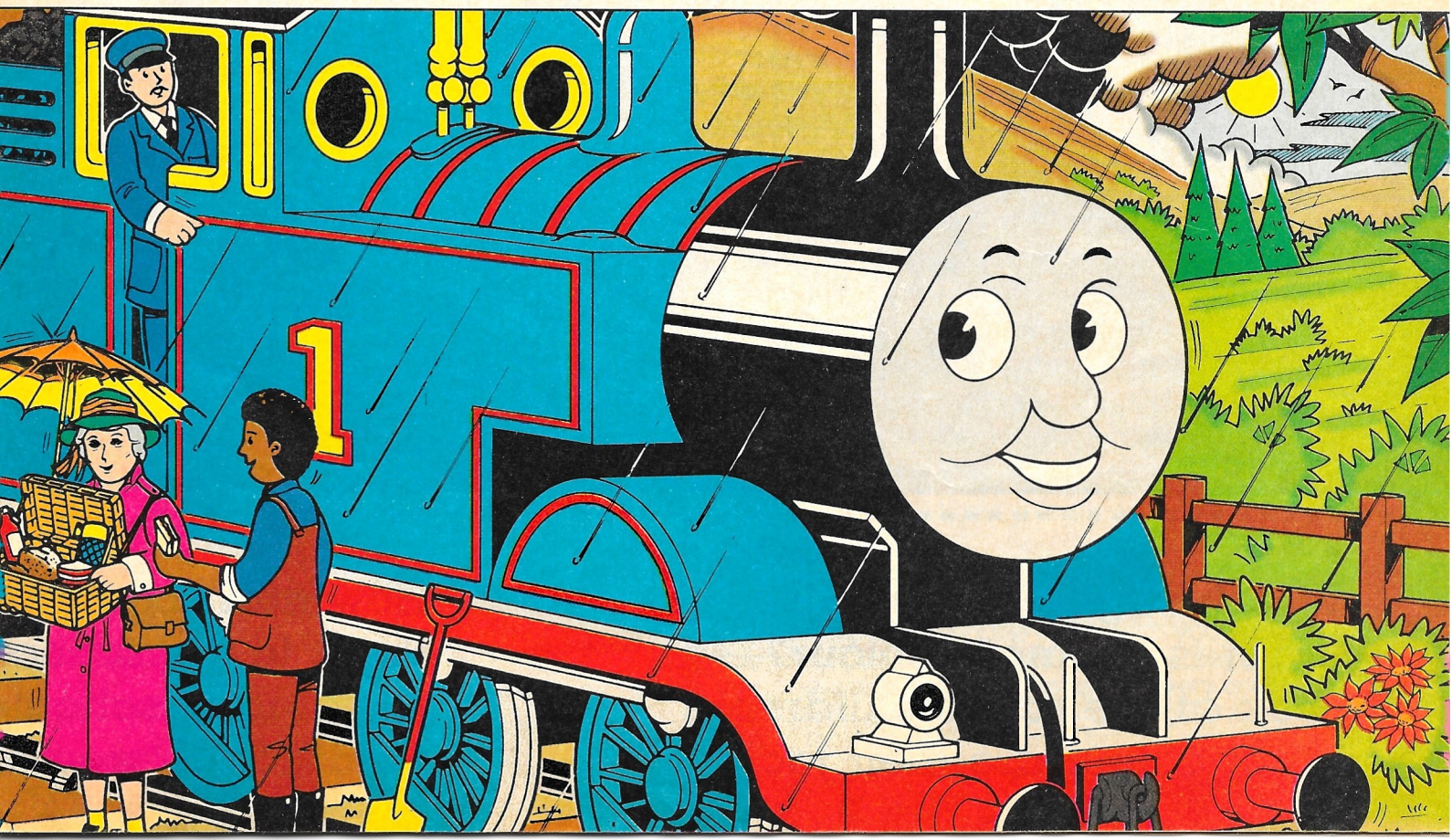
When Thomas reached the workmen, Lady Hatt called them over to shelter in Annie while they enjoyed a marvellous picnic.

"Things have turned out brighter than expected, despite the bad weather," said Lady Hatt. "Thanks to Thomas!"

All the men agreed. Thomas was pleased, too.

"I pulled the workmen's picnic special!" he smiled.

THE END!



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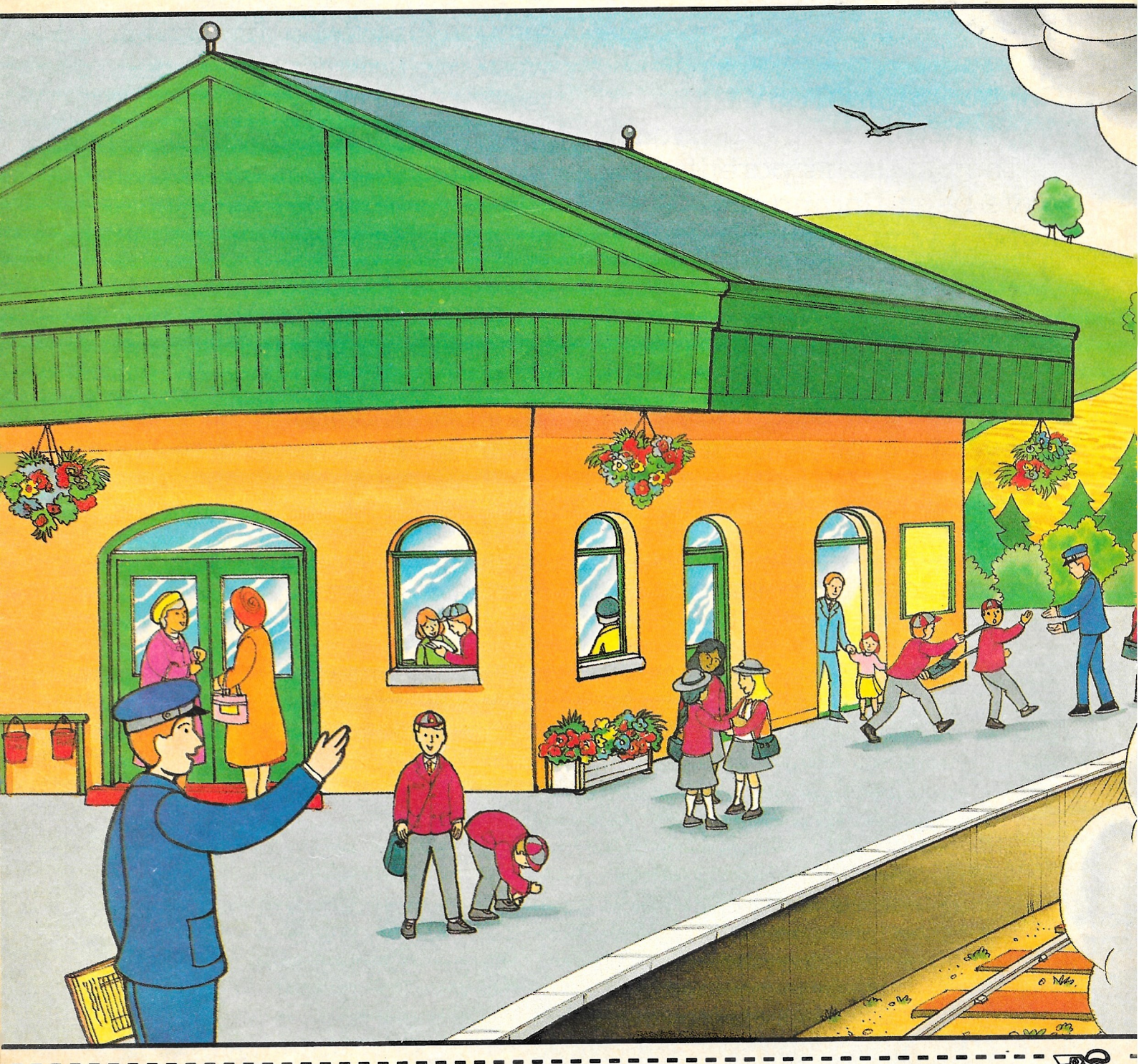

Which engine can you see?
What is his main colour?
Look at the schoolchildren!
What colour are their jackets?

How many guard
Point to the schoo
How many school
Point to the weath

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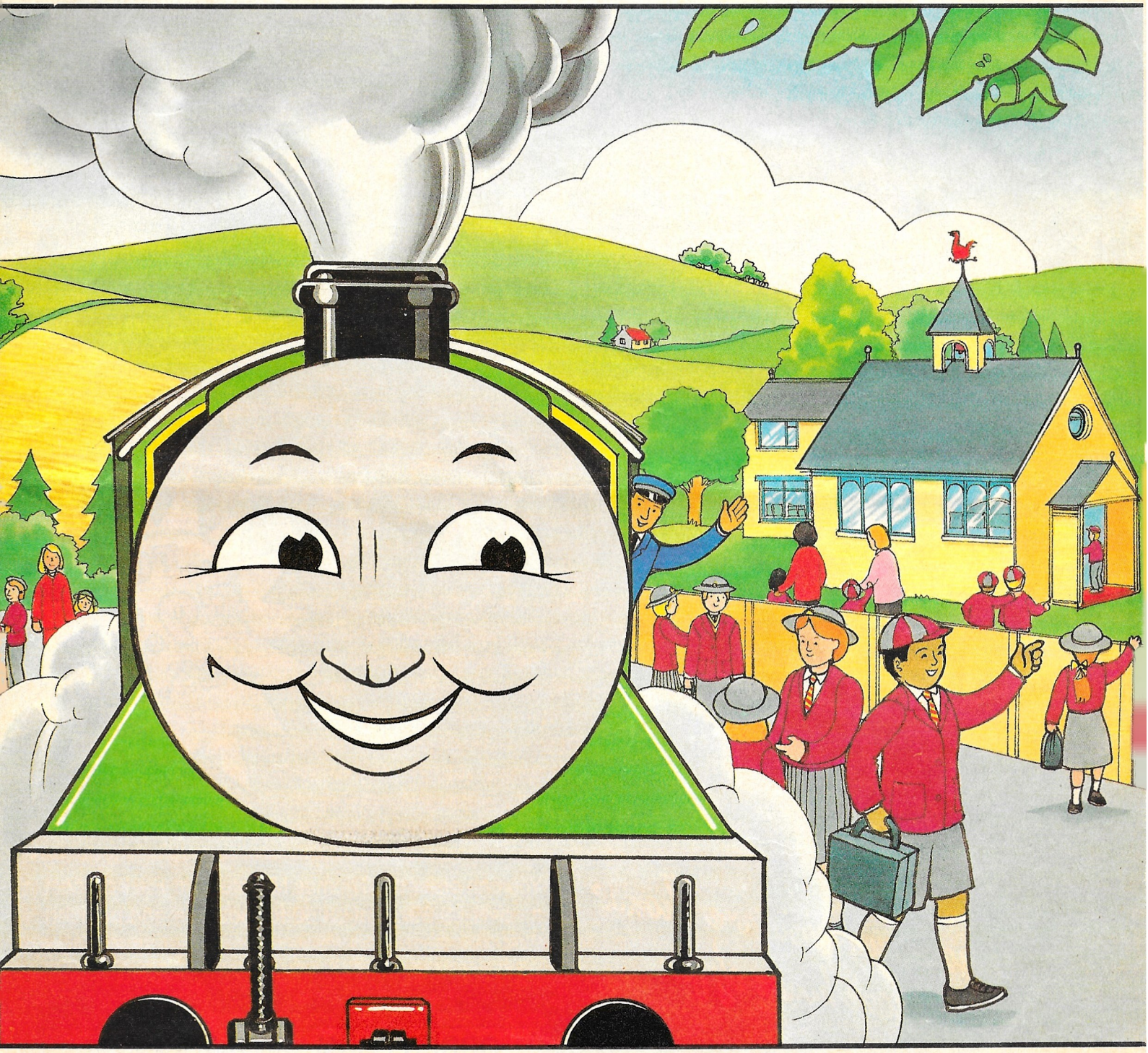

can you count?
building!
bags can you see?
r-vane!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: A is for Apple! (Alphabet-Mural)

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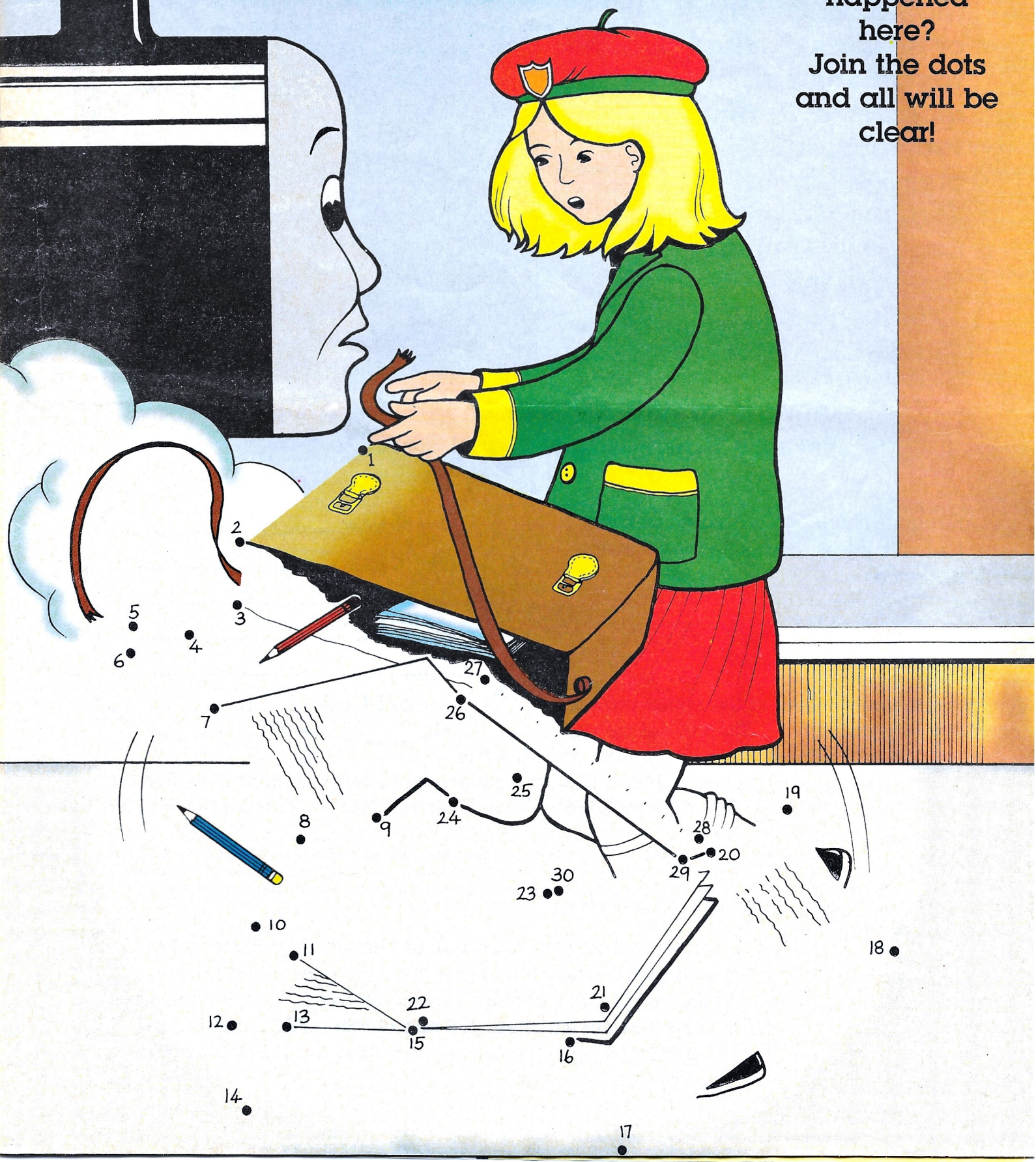
JOIN THE DOTS!

Oh dear, what's happened here? Join the dots and all will be clear!



Competition!

10 first prize winners will receive a selection of popular Thomas toys. Each set includes a Thomas Projector, a 30 - piece jigsaw, a Thomas Motorised Engine, a Thomas Fun-bag and a Thomas Wall Clock.

75 runners-up will receive a Thomas Soap-crayons and Sponge Set!

How to enter:

For your chance to win some of these fantastic prizes, complete the following sentence;

James is a bright ___ Engine!

(Write your answer in the space provided.)

Name .....

Address .....

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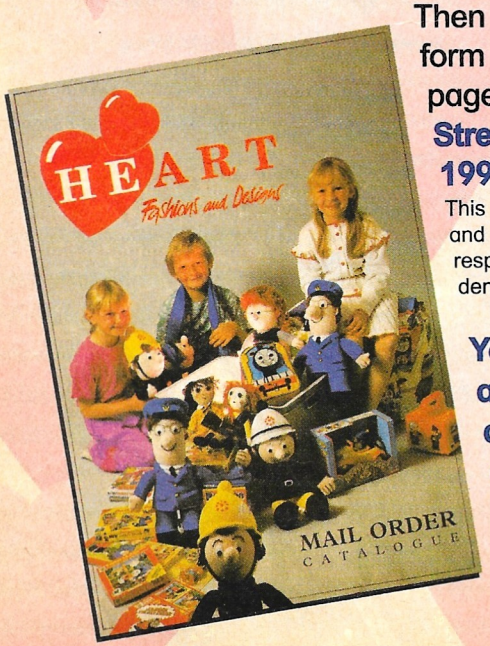
.....

Post Code .....

Then fill out the entry form on the right and send this page to **Thomas/Heart Fashions and Designs Competition, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR by September 23rd, 1994.**

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd., and Heart Fashions and Designs. All prizes will be distributed by Heart Fashions. We cannot accept responsibility for any prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.



You can obtain the full range of Thomas toys in Heart Fashions and Designs new mail order catalogue, including games, diecast models, posters, duvets, curtains, rugs, lamps, clocks and musical watches. You can obtain a FREE copy of the catalogue by either telephoning 0543-377182 or by writing to: Heart Fashions & Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR.

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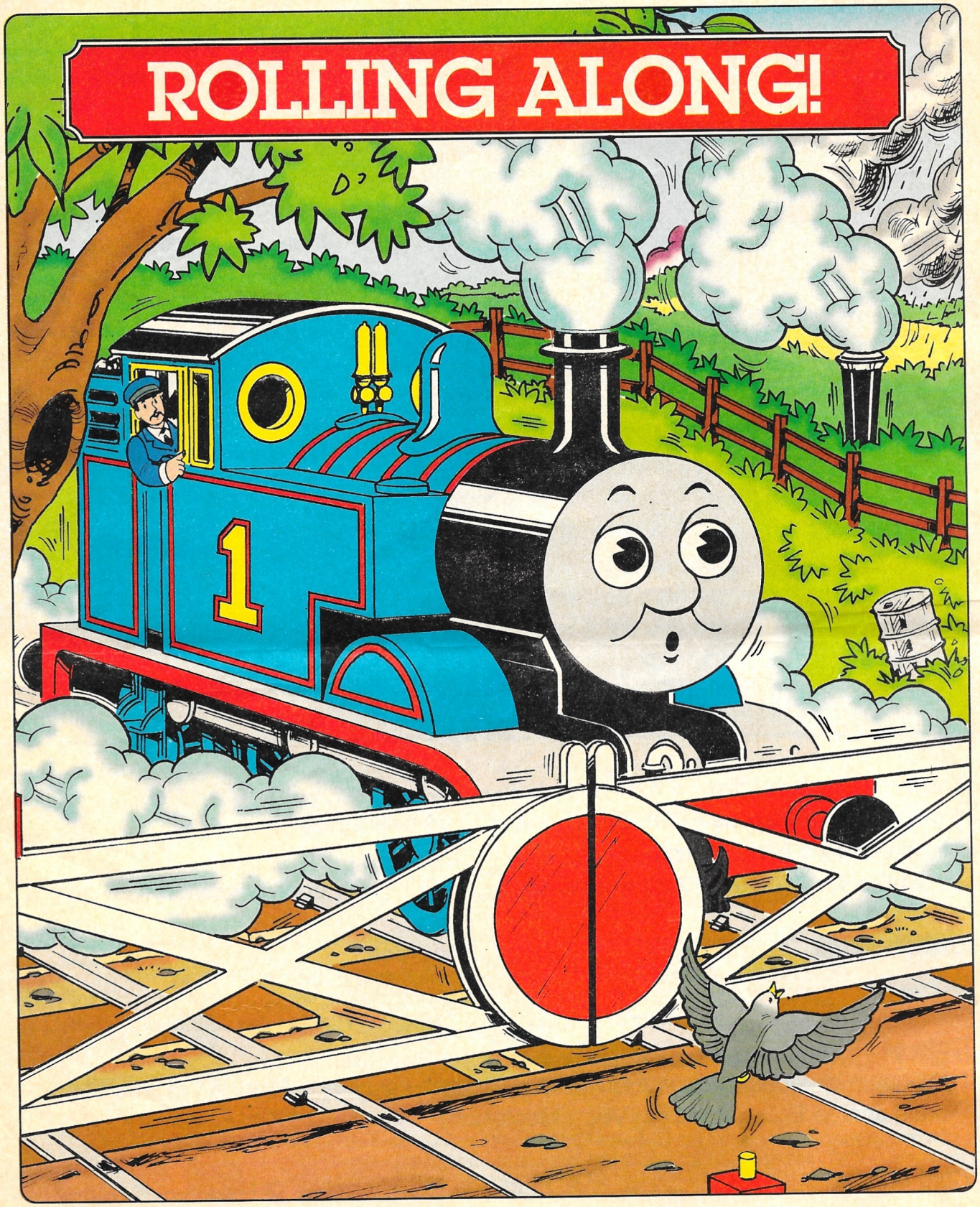
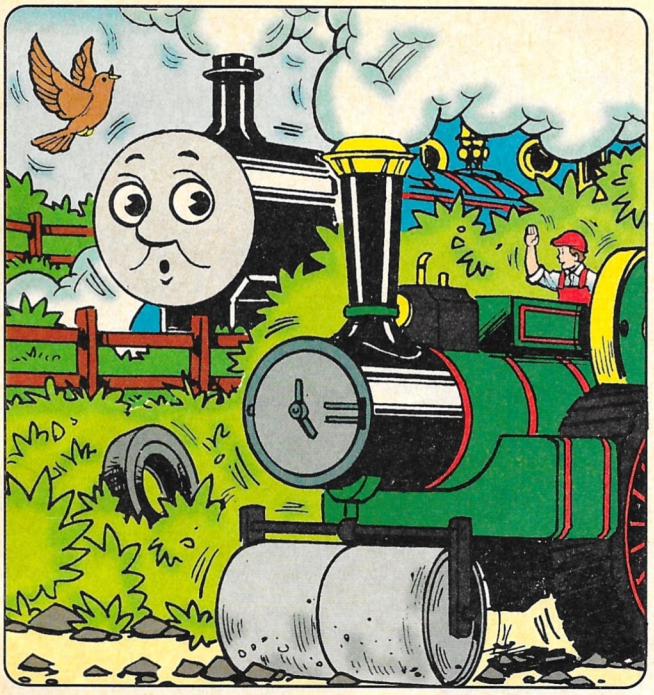
ROLLING ALONG!



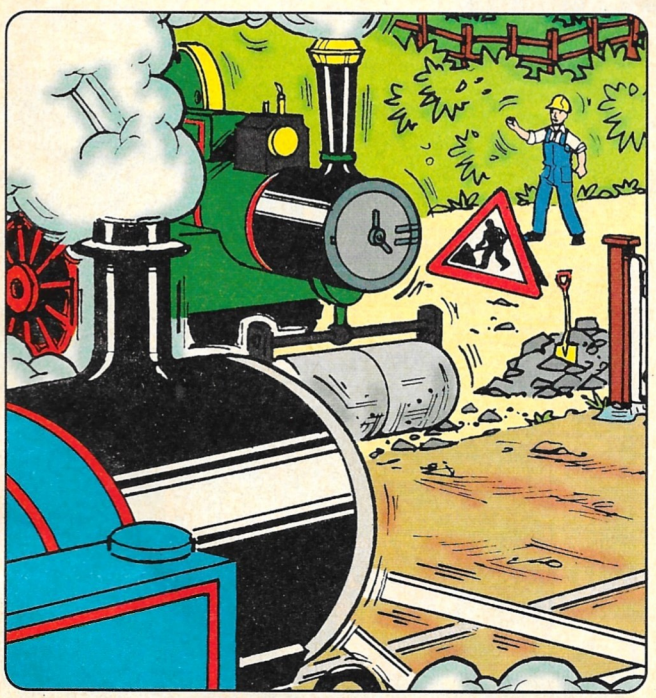
1. Dark rain clouds had just blown over the Island of Sodor. Thomas was using an old loop-line. While he waited at a level-crossing, he heard a loud rumbling.

2. "What's that?" gasped Thomas as the noise came nearer. Then, above some bushes, he saw smoke steaming from the top of a tall funnel in the road.

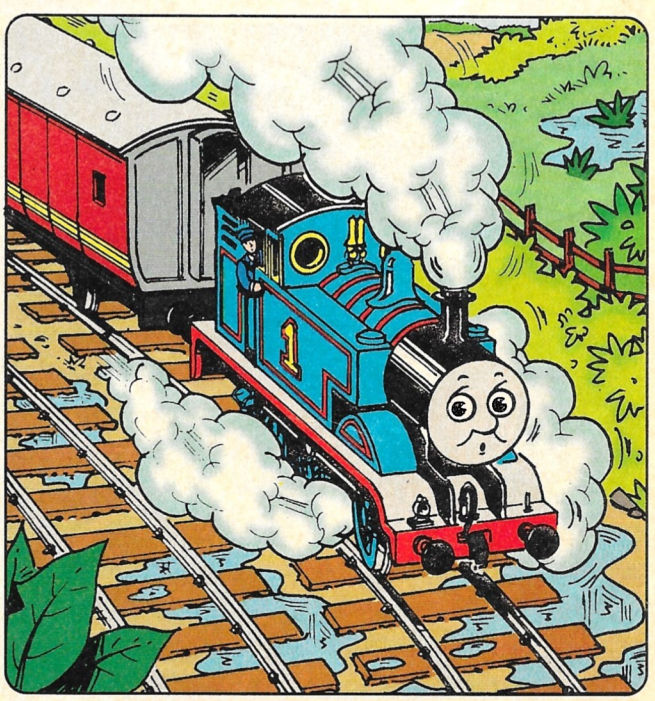


3. "Steam engines only run on rails," thought Thomas. "So that must be Trevor the Traction Engine!" But a very strange and noisy machine chugged into view.

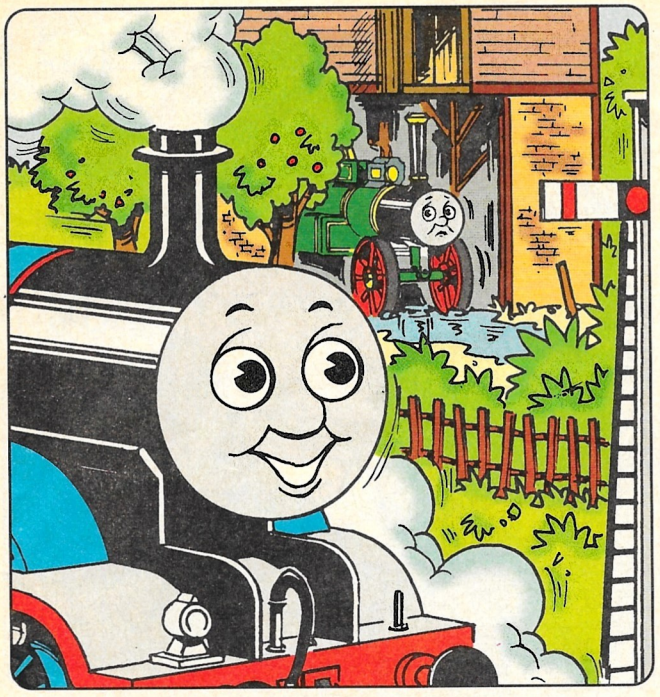
4. It looked rather like Trevor with one huge wide wheel at the front. "That's a steam-roller!" Thomas's driver called. "It's used to repair roads!"



5. Thomas watched as the steam-roller's enormous front wheel or roller pressed down a new surface that some workmen had laid on the road by the crossing.

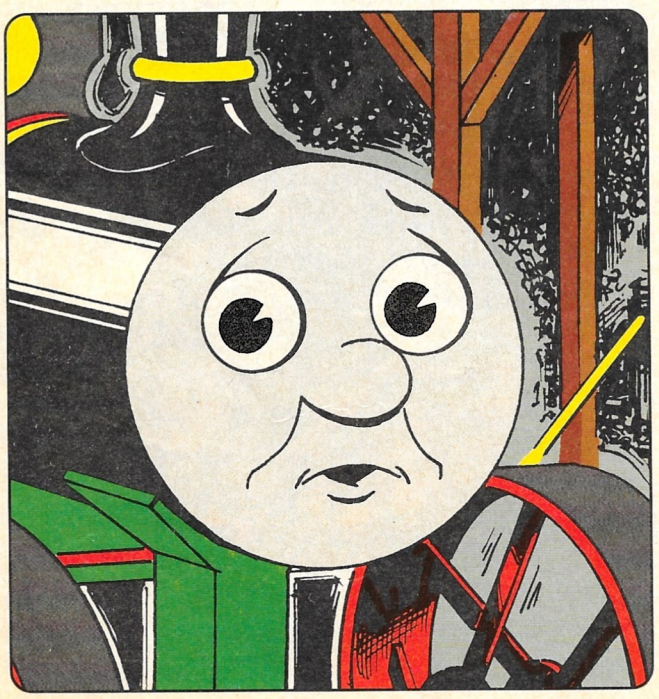


6. When the gates opened, Thomas puffed on his way. That night it poured with rain and only stopped as Thomas set off to take the morning post train.



7. Soon he had to pull up at a signal near Trevor's shed in the Vicarage Orchard. Thomas could not wait to tell Trevor all about the steam-roller.

8. But Trevor looked sad. His driver Jem Cole and the Vicar were tipping stones and bricks from a wheelbarrow on to the ground near Trevor's shed.



9. "What's wrong?" called Thomas. "I'm to give rides at a children's fête this afternoon," Trevor said. "But all this rain's made the orchard very muddy!"

10. Jem explained that Trevor's wheels would get stuck if he left his shed. "We're laying a firm path for him. But pressing it into the earth is slow work!"

11. "If the path isn't ready in time, I can't go!" added Trevor. Thomas had an idea. Later, at the Main Station, he told the Fat Controller who rang the steam-roller's owner. Luckily, the road repairs were finished. Imagine Trevor's surprise when the steam-roller came rumbling slowly into the orchard.

12. Thomas delivered some railwaymen to help Jem and the Vicar. Flattening the stone path was easy work for such a mighty steam-roller and the path was soon ready. The steam-roller even went to the fête with Trevor to give extra rides. "Trevor's found a Really Useful new friend!" smiled Thomas. **THE END!**

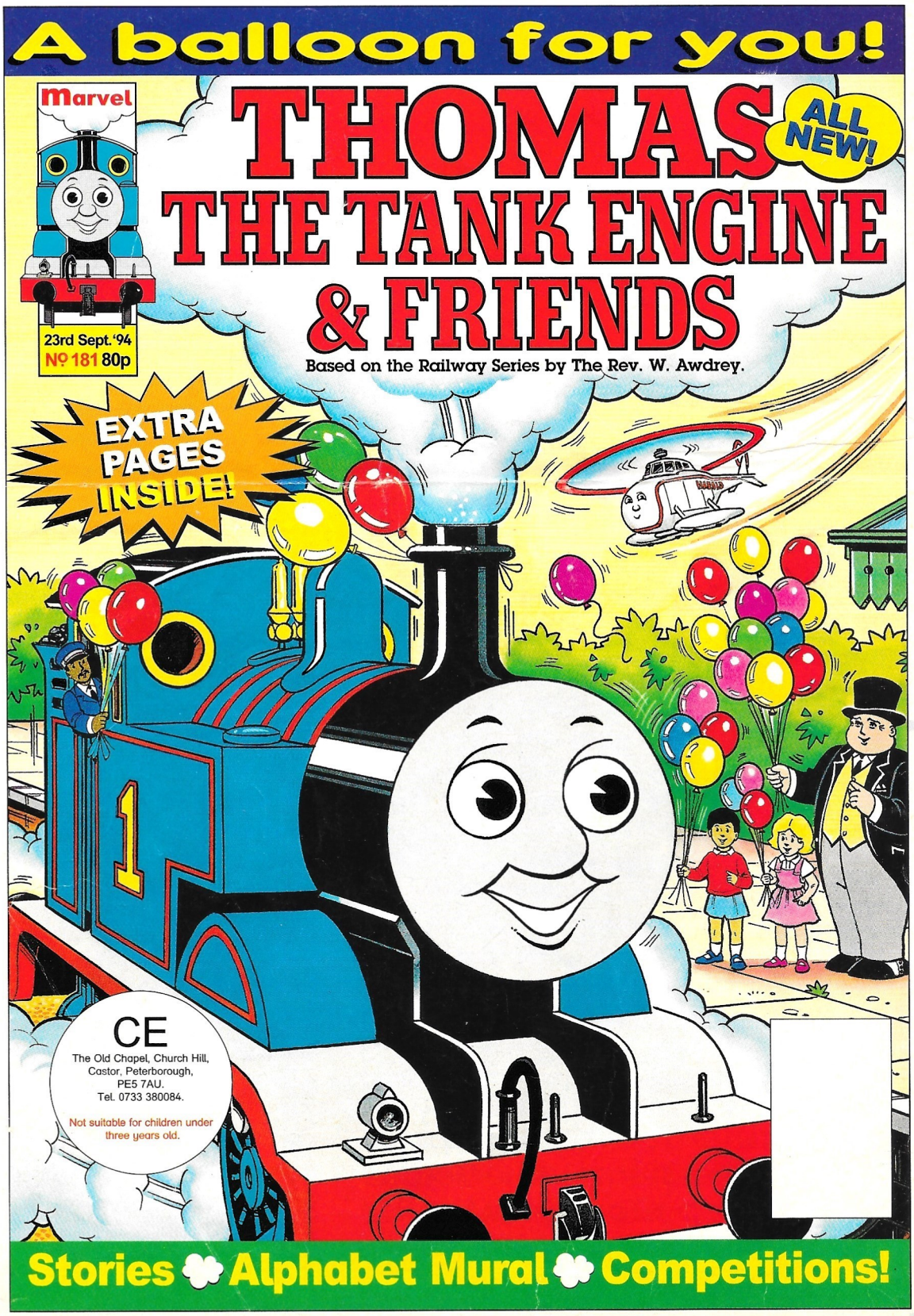
In our next issue: Percy's spooky story!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Don't miss our next issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Magazine.

From issue 181 you will be able to enjoy the amazing new-look Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends fortnightly magazine!

We've all worked together to create new bigger and brighter picture stories, fabulous fun activities and a new alphabet mural for you to finish colouring!

What's more, we've got an all new Fat Controller's letters and drawings page and a whole train load of fantastic competitions throughout the year!

So make sure you're there on September 10th for the new-look Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! Don't be late or you might miss it!